

a.) Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Original) A preventing or treating agent for arthritis which comprises plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea* or an extract of the plant and amino sugar or a salt thereof and/or glycosaminoglycan or a salt thereof as active ingredients.

2. (Original) The preventing or treating agent for arthritis according to claim 1, wherein the plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea* is *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. *Thunbergii* Makino.

3. (Original) The preventing or treating agent for arthritis according to claim 2, wherein the plant of *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. *Thunbergii* Makino is *Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium*.

4. (Original) The preventing or treating agent for arthritis according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the amino sugar is glucosamine or a salt thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The preventing or treating agent for arthritis according to any of ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claims 1 to 3, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) A food ~~and drink or an additive for foods and drinks comprising~~ or drink, further comprising a plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea* or an extract of the plant and amino sugar or a salt thereof and/or glycosaminoglycan or a salt thereof.

7. (Original) The food and drink or the additive for foods and drinks according to claim 6, wherein it is used for prevention or treatment of arthritis.

8. (Original) The food and drink or the additive for foods and drinks according to claim 6 to 7, wherein the plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea* is *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. *Thunbergii* Makino.

9. (Currently Amended) The food and drink or the additive for foods and drinks according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 6 to 7, wherein the plant ~~of~~ belonging to the genus *Hydrangea macrophylla* ~~Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino~~ is *Hydrangeae Dulcis* Folium.

10. (Currently Amended) The food and drink or the additive for foods and drinks according to ~~any of claims 6 to 9~~ claim 8, wherein the amino sugar is glucosamine or a salt thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The food and drink or the additive for foods and drinks according to ~~any of claims 6 to~~ claim 10, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

Claims 12-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Original) A preventing or treating method for arthritis, which comprises administering plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea* or an extract of the plant and amino sugar or a salt thereof and/or glycosaminoglycan or a salt thereof.

19. (Original) The preventing or treating method for arthritis according to claim 18, wherein the plant belonging to the genus *Hydrangea* is *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. *Thunbergii* Makino.

20. (Original) The preventing or treating method for arthritis according to claim 19, wherein the plant of *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. *Thunbergii* Makino is *Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium*.

21. (Original) The preventing or treating method for arthritis according to any of claims 18 to 20, wherein the amino sugar is glucosamine or a salt thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The preventing or treating method for arthritis according to any of ~~claims 18 to 21~~ claims 18 to 20, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

Claims 23-27 (Cancelled).

28. (New) The preventing or treating agent for arthritis according to claim 4, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

29. (New) The food and drink or the additive for foods and drinks according to claim 9, wherein the amino sugar is glucosamine or a salt thereof.

30. (New) The food and drink or the additive for foods and drinks according to claim 29, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.

31. (New) The preventing or treating method for arthritis according to claim 21, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof.